

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 19, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully considered. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Turning first to the objections to the specification, the suggestions kindly made by the Examiner with respect to paragraphs [0022] and [0027] have been adopted. With regard to the objection to the "adjustment screw 26," in order to avoid excessive clerical changes by the applicant and the Office, paragraph [0024] has been amended to state that the adjustment screw 26 is also referred to in the application as a seal screw. It is believed that this insertion is the most expediate way to respond to the objection. Accordingly, it is believed that the objections have been overcome and withdrawal thereof is requested.

Turning to the rejection of claims 1-10 as being indefinite, the preamble of claim 1 has been amended, without conceding the propriety of the rejection, to recite that it is fluid from the fluid supply that is being regulated. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection for indefiniteness is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 13, 16 and 18 were rejected as being anticipated by German Patent Publication 4010177. Claims 1, 2, 5-11, 13, 14, 16, 18 and 19 were rejected as being unpatentable over Jensen '595 in view of Hinds '495. Claims 3, 4, 12, 15, 17 and 20 were rejected as being unpatentable over Jensen '595 in view of Hinds '495 further in view of Erikson '819. These rejections are all respectfully traversed.

Without conceding the propriety of the art rejections, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the valve includes a shank, that the seal screw threadably engages the shank and that the valve includes a spindle configured for attachment to the tool. Claim 1 has further been amended to recite a spring disposed between the spindle and the shank that generates preload tension. Claim 1 also recites that the second sealing surface is disposed on the shank and the tightening of the screw

compresses the spring to increase the preload tension. It is respectfully submitted that this combination of features is neither taught nor suggested by German Patent Publication '177 nor Jensen '595 nor Hinds '495.

Turning to the German Patent Publication '177, no provision is seen for adjusting the preload tension, nor is a screw threadably engaging the shank as recited in claim 1. Turning to Jensen '595, the screw in Jensen actually threadably engages the elastic member of Jensen and not the shank. Therefore, tightening of the screw is not seen to function to compress the spring or to adjust the preload tension as recited in claim 1. Neither Hinds '495 nor Erikson '819 (which was cited based on locking screws) are seen to remedy the deficiencies noted above with respect to German Patent Publication '177 nor Jensen '595. Claim 1 is believed allowable for at least these reasons and withdrawal of the rejection with respect to amended claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Also without conceding the propriety of the rejection, claims 11 and 16 have been amended. Claim 11 recites means for attachment to a drive, means for attachment to a tool, and that the preload tension is adjusted by adjusting compression of a spring disposed between the attachment means. Claim 16 has been amended to recite that the preload tension adjustment is performed by compressing a spring disposed between a shank and a spindle of the chuck.

With respect to claims 11 and 16, it is further noted that none of the references used in the rejection are not seen to teach or suggest adjusting a preload tension of a chuck by adjusting compression of a spring that is disposed between a shank and a spindle (or between a drive attachment and a tool attachment). Accordingly, these claims as amended are believed allowable for at least those reasons.

Accordingly, claims 11 and 16 are believed allowable and withdrawal of the art rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 21 and 22 are newly added. Both depend from claim 1. Claim 21 recites that the spindle has an open end and that the seal screw has a head accessible through the open end, and claim 22 recites that the spindle has a first fluid conduit, and a shank has a second fluid conduit,

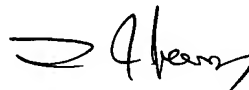
and further that the seal ring is downstream of the first and second fluid conduits. It is believed none of these features are taught nor suggested by the art of record whether taken singularly or in combination with the other features of claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the application are believed in order, and such action is earnestly solicited. The dependent claims are believed allowable for the reasons given above with respect to the independent claims from which they depend, and also for defining additional features in their own right. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would be helpful in expediting prosecution of the application; the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 202-861-1696.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicant petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2036 with reference to Attorney Docket No. 05165.1240.

Respectfully submitted,

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